

PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 10007646-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S): Shell Sterling Simpson, et al. **CONFIRMATION NO:** 4266

SERIAL NO.: 09/905,580

GROUP ART UNIT: 2152

FILED: July 12, 2001

EXAMINER: Victor D. Lesniewski

SUBJECT: MEDIATED ACCESS TO PRODUCTION DEVICE OPTIONS
IN A DISTRIBUTED ENVIRONMENT

APPELLANTS'/APPLICANTS' OPENING BRIEF ON APPEAL

1. Real Party in Interest.

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holding, LLC.

2. Related Appeals And Interferences.

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or the Assignee which will affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

3. Status of Claims.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 23-26, 28, 33-36, and 38 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 6, 7, 13, 20, 21, 27, 29, 30, and 37 have been cancelled. The rejections of all pending claims are appealed.

4. Status of Amendments.

No amendments have been filed after the final action was entered. All previous amendments have been entered.

5. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter.

Claim 1 recites a method for mediating access to production options. The recited method includes acquiring a user's access request for a production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. Data is accessed that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0045], page 9, lines 13-21 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. Each production option corresponds to a feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. A user interface for the production device is retrieved. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. The user interface has user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17 and Fig. 9A. The retrieved user interface is modified according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for

which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0045], page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. The user is then presented with the modified user interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045]. page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8.

Claim 14 recites a method for mediating access to production options. The recited method includes acquiring a user's access request for a production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. A web page for the production device retrieved. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. The web page has user accessible controls for selecting production options. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. A record established for the user is accessed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0045], page 9, lines 13-21 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8 and Fig. 4. The record contains data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, Fig. 4. Each production option corresponds to a feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. The retrieved web page is modified according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0045], page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. The user is presented with the modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8.

Claim 15 recites a computer program product for mediating access to production options. The product comprises a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions. Included are instructions for acquiring a user's access request for a

production device and accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0045], page 9, lines 13-21 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. Each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. Also included are instructions for retrieving a user interface for the production device, the user interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device and modifying the retrieved user interface according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], [0036], and [0045], page 6, lines 5-17, page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2, and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8 and Fig. 9A. Other instruction are for presenting the user with the modified user interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 thought page 14, line 8.

Claim 28 recites a computer program product for mediating access to production devices. The product comprises a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions. Included are instructions for acquiring a user's access request for a production device and retrieving a web page for the production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045]. page 13, line 30 thought page 14, line 8. The interface has user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. Included are instructions for accessing a record established for the user. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0032] and [0045], page 9, lines 13-21 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. The record contains data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Fig. 4. Each production option corresponds to a feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. Also included are instructions modifying the retrieved web

page according to the accessed data such that the altered web page has user accessible controls for only those production options for which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraphs [0036] and [0045], page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2 and page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8. Other instructions are for presenting the user with the modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0045], page 13, line 30 through page 14, line 8.

Claim 33 recites a system for managing electronic document production. The system includes a production server and a permission service. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0028], Page 7, line 17 through page 8, line 9. The production server is operable to serve to a client an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0028], Page 7, line 17 through page 8, line 9. Each production option corresponds to a feature that when implemented affects a manner in which a selected production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. The permission service is operable to retrieve the interface from the production server for the selected production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12. The permission service accesses a user's record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12. The permission service modifies the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0036], page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2. The permission service directs the modified interface to the client so that through the interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible

controls provided by the modified interface. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12.

Claim 38 recites a system for managing electronic document production. The system includes a production device, one or more user records, a production server, and a permission service. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0028]-[0032], Page 7, line 17 through page 9, line 21. Each user record contains, for each production device, data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0032], page 9, lines 13-21. Each production option corresponds to a feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17. The production server is in communication with the production device and is operable to serve an interface for that production device. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12. The interface has user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0023], page 6, lines 5-17, and Fig. 9A. The permission service is operable to access the user's record and retrieve the interface from the production server. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0035] and [0036], page 10, line 11 through page 11, line 2. The permission service modifies the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0035] and [0036], page 10, line 11 through page 11, line 2. The permission service directs the modified interface to a client so that through the modified interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12.

The system also includes one or more device records, a permission engine, a device locator, and an update service. *See, e.g.,* Specification, paragraphs [0031] and

[0033], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12, and page 9, lines 22-31. Each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0033], page 9, lines 22-31. The permission engine is operable to parse the device records and generate a web page for managing user records. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0042], page 12, line 31 through page 13, line 6.. The device locator is operable to detect new production devices. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0031] and [0036], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12 and page 10, line 18 through page 11, line 2. The update service is operable to create a device record for each newly detected production device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, paragraph [0031], Page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 12.

6. Grounds of Rejection To Be Reviewed.

A. Claims 1-3, 11, 12, 15-17, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,453,127 issued to Wood in view of USPN 6,154,843 issued to Hart.

B. Claims 5, 9, 10, 14, 19, 23, 24, 28, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Hart and in further view of USPN 6,751,657 issued to Zothner.

C. Claims 35, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Hart and in further view of Zothner and in further view of USPN 6,092,078 issued to Adolfsson.

7. Argument.

A. Ground For Rejection A – Claims 1-3, 11, 12, 15-17, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,453,127 issued to Wood in view of USPN 6,154,843 issued to Hart.

Claims 1 and 15: Claim 1, as is directed to a method for mediating access to production options and, as amended, recites the following acts.

1. acquiring a user's access request for a production device;
2. accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;
3. retrieving a user interface for the production device, the user interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;
4. modifying the retrieved user interface according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access; and
5. presenting the user with the modified user interface

Claim 1 recites a method in which a user interface is retrieved and modified. The interface is modified by identifying production options to which the user does not have permission to access and then modifying the user interface so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access. In other words, the user interface is modified so that the user does not have access to controls for those options for which the user does not have permission to access.

The Appellant respectfully maintains that the combination of Wood and Hart fails to teach or suggest "modifying the retrieved user interface according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access." At page 4 of the final office action, the Examiner admits that Wood does not teach or suggest modifying a retrieved user interface. Instead, the Examiner improperly relies on Hart. As explained below, Hart teaches away from the claimed invention.

Hart teaches a system in which a remote user is given the ability to perform tasks on a secure local network. See Hart, Abstract. In operation, Hart's system identifies a task to be performed on the private network. Hart, step 230, Fig. 2. Next, a custom program is generated based upon the requirements of the identified task. Hart, step 232, Fig. 2. Custom data along with an interface program are downloaded to the remote user. Hart, step 238, Fig. 2.

According to Hart, the generated custom program includes "data specific to the private network 140, a custom user interface specific to the type of command access requested, and custom program code specifically designed to support information gathering from the remote user and to support executing the requested command or commands on the private network 140 by way of local computing device 130." Hart, col. 6, lines 15-22. Hart goes on to mention that the custom program includes a customized web page that includes "network specific data necessary to supply the remote network administrator with the interface tools and network specific information that are unique to the private network 140." Hart, col. 6, lines 23-28. The information and functionality provided by Hart's customized web page "are expressly limited to the scope of the requested task that the remote user is authorized to perform." Hart, col. 6, lines 28-31.

Plainly, Hart teaches **generating** a user interface in the form of a customized web page. Claim 1 recites **modifying** a retrieved user interface so that the interface as modified provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access. Hart teaches the retrieving and displaying a user interface for a network copier/printer. Hart, col. 6, lines 19-23 and Fig. 4. However, as admitted by the Examiner, Hart mentions nothing of modifying this interface. The Examiner instead mistakenly asserts that because "Hart's system dynamically generates custom program based on a verification of a user's security privileges," it would be obvious to modify Woods teachings "by adding the ability to check for user permissions and modify the interface accordingly as provided by Hart."

Harts generation of a custom program is not equivalent with modifying a retrieved user interface. Generating a program that includes a customized web page is

fundamentally different than retrieving a user interface and then modifying that user interface so that the interface as modified provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access. Such a modification at a minimum implies the identification and disablement or removal of controls for selecting options for which the user does not have permission to access. Hart mentions nothing of generating a user interface have certain functions and then removing or disabling such functions. Instead, Hart teaches away from doing so. At col. 6, line 12-34, Hart describes the generation of a custom program that includes a custom web page. Hart goes on to state that “the custom Web page and custom programs **are expressly limited** to the scope of the requested task that the remote user is authorized to perform.” Hart, col. 6, lines 28-30 (emphasis added). In other words, Hart’s custom web page would never be generated to include controls that would be later removed or disabled. As a consequence, one of ordinary skill of the art would not look to Hart to modify the teachings of Wood.

As such Hart and Wood fail to teach or suggest “**modifying the retrieved user interface** according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access.” For at least these reasons, Claims 1 is patentable over the cited references as are Claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 which depend from Claim 1. Claim 15 is directed to a computer program product that includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for implementing the method of Claim 1. For at least the same reasons, Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claim 15 and Claims 16, 17, 25, and 26 which depend from Claim 15.

B. Ground For Rejection B – Claims 5, 9, 10, 14, 19, 23, 24, 28, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Hart and in further view of USPN 6,751,657 issued to Zothner.

Claims 5, 9, and 10 each depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependence from Claim 1.

Claims 14 and 28: Claim 14 is directed to a method for mediating access to production options and recites the following:

1. acquiring a user's access request for a production device;
2. retrieving a web page for the production device, the web page having user accessible controls for selecting production options;
3. accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document; and
4. modifying the retrieved web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access; and
5. presenting the user with the modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface..

Claim 28 is directed to a computer program product that includes a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions for performing the elements listed above.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 15, Wood and Hart fail to teach or suggest "modifying the retrieved web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access." Zothner is also silent on this point. For at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 15 are patentable, so are Claims 14 and 28.

Claims 19, 23, and 24 each depend from Claim 15 and are patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependence from Claim 15.

Claim 33: Claim 33 is directed to a system for managing electronic document production and, as amended, recites the following elements:

1. a production server operable to serve to a client an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which a selected production device produces a target document;
2. a permission service operable to retrieve the interface from the production server for the selected production device, access a user's record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access, and direct to the client the modified interface so that through the interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 15, Wood and Hart fail to teach or suggest "modifying the retrieved web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access." Zothner is also silent on this point. Consequently, the cited references also fail to teach or suggest a permission service that is operable to modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access. For at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 15 are patentable, so are Claim 33 and Claim 34 which depends from Claim 33.

C. Ground For Rejection C – Claims 35, 36 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Hart and in further view of Zothner and in further view of USPN 6,092,078 issued to Adolfsson.

Claims 35 and 36 each depend from Claim 33 and include all of the limitations of that base claim. For at least the same reasons Claim 33 is patentable, so are Claims 35 and 36.

Claim 38: Claim 38 is directed to a system for managing electronic document production and includes the following combination of elements:

1. a production device;
2. one or more user records, each user record containing, for each production device, data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;
3. a production server in communication with the production device and operable to serve an interface for that production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;
4. a permission service operable to access the user's record, retrieve the interface from the production server, modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access, and to direct to a client the modified interface so that through the modified interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with

- a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface;
5. one or more device records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the production device;
 6. a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an web page for managing user records;
 7. a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and
 8. an update service operable to create a device record for each newly detected production device.

As discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 15, Wood and Hart fail to teach or suggest "modifying the retrieved web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access." Zothner and Adolfsson are also silent on this point. Consequently, the cited references also fail to teach or suggest a permission service that is operable to modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access. For at least the same reasons Claims 1 and 15 are patentable, so is Claim 38.

8. Conclusion.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14-17, 19, 23-26, 28, 33-36, and 38 define allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Shell S. Simpson, et al.

By /Jack H. McKinney/

December 21, 2007

Jack H. McKinney
Reg. No. 45,685

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

1. (previously presented) A method for mediating access to production options, comprising:

acquiring a user's access request for a production device;

accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;

retrieving a user interface for the production device, the user interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;

modifying the retrieved user interface according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access; and

presenting the user with the modified user interface.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises intercepting an access request directed to the production device.

3 (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises redirecting the access request.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user record using the credentials, the user record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the interface is a web page containing instructions for displaying controls for selecting production options and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more tags each tag identifying a particular production option, wherein the act of altering comprises identifying the tags for production options to which the user does not have access and altering the instructions associated with those tags.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for the user and locating a record for the user using the credentials, the record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of retrieving and modifying are performed on a network device other than the production device.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of retrieving comprises retrieving the interface in the form of a web page, and the act of presenting comprises presenting the modified web page to a web browser.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method for mediating access to production options, comprising:

acquiring a user's access request for a production device;

retrieving a web page for the production device, the web page having user accessible controls for selecting production options;

accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document; and

modifying the retrieved web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access; and

presenting the user with the modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface.

15. (previously presented) A computer program product for mediating access to production options, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

acquiring a user's access request for a production device;

accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;

retrieving a user interface for the production device, the user interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;

modifying the retrieved user interface according to the accessed data so that the interface provides user accessible controls for selecting only those options for which the user has permission to access; and

presenting the user with the modified user.

16. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for acquiring include instructions for intercepting an access request directed to the production device.

17. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein instructions for acquiring include instructions for redirecting the access request.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for accessing comprise instructions for obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user record using the credentials, the user record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access.

20. (cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the interface is a web page containing instructions for displaying the controls for selecting each of the production options and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more tags each tag identifying a particular production option, wherein the instructions for altering include instructions for identifying the tags for production options to which the user does not have access and altering the instructions associated with those tags.

24. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for accessing include instructions for obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user

record using the credentials, the user record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access.

25. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for retrieving and modifying comprise instructions for retrieving and modifying from a device other than the production device.

26. (previously presented) The product of Claim 15, wherein the instructions for retrieving comprises instructions for retrieving the interface in the form of a web page and the instructions for presenting comprises instructions for presenting the web page to a web browser.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A computer program product for mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

- acquiring a user's access request for a production device;

- retrieving a web page for the production device; the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;

- accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;

- modifying the retrieved web page according to the accessed data, the altered web page having user accessible controls for only those production options for which the user has permission to access; and

presenting the user with the modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31-32 (cancelled)

33. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the system comprising:

- a production server operable to serve to a client an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which a selected production device produces a target document;

- a permission service operable to retrieve the interface from the production server for the selected production device, access a user's record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access, and direct to the client the modified interface so that through the interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface.

34. (previously presented) The system of Claim 33, further comprising a permission engine operable to generate an interface having user accessible controls for managing user records.

35. (original) The system of Claim 34, further comprising one or more device records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the particular production device, and wherein the permission engine is operable to parse the device records to generate the interface for managing the user records.

36. (original) The system of Claim 35, further comprising:
a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and
an update service operable to create a device record for each newly detected production device.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (previously presented) In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the system comprising:

a production device;

one or more user records, each user record containing, for each production device, data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access, each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document;

a production server in communication with the production device and operable to serve an interface for that production device, the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for the production device;

a permission service operable to access the user's record, retrieve the interface from the production server, modify the retrieved interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access, and to direct to a client the modified interface so that through the modified interface the user can cause the production of the target

document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface;

one or more device records, each device record containing data representing the production options offered by the production device;

a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an web page for managing user records;

a device locator operable to detect new production devices; and

an update service operable to create a device record for each newly detected production device.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.